

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) / “Fit for 55”

Brief description and main aims:

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is the EU's main legislative instrument for improving the energy performance of buildings in the EU. It was revised in the last legislative period with the aim of significantly reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and final energy consumption in the buildings sector by 2030 and setting a long-term vision for a climate neutral EU buildings sector by 2050. In this context, the recast EPBD aims to increase the rate and depth of energy-efficient building renovation, to improve information on the energy performance and sustainability of buildings, to ensure that all new buildings meet ambitious minimum energy performance standards, and to ensure that all buildings in the future are in line with the 2050 climate neutrality requirements. The EPBD sets minimum requirements for non-residential and residential buildings with a “worst first” approach, meaning that worst-performing buildings are likely to undergo some form of renovation first. It also requires Member States to phase out fossil fuel based boilers by 2040 and to define a pathway to progressively reduce the “global warming potential” of buildings over their life cycle.

The recast EPBD builds on the 2020 EU *Renovation Wave* strategy, which aims to at least double the annual renovation rate in the EU by 2030. It is part of a broader legislative package (“*Fit for 55*”) to reduce emissions in the EU by 55% by 2030.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

Buildings account for about 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions in the EU. Currently, about 35% of EU buildings are over 50 years old and almost 75% of the building stock is energy inefficient, while only 0.4-1.2% of the building stock is renovated each year. Therefore, the renovation of existing buildings has the potential to lead to significant energy savings. Investments in energy efficiency can boost the construction industry, and SMEs in particular would benefit from a stimulated renovation market. The recast EPBD also sets out the conditions for calculating the whole-life carbon emissions (WLC)/life-cycle global warming potential (GWP) of new buildings. As part of the *Renovation Wave*, the European Commission has committed to developing a roadmap to 2050 for reducing the whole-life carbon emissions of buildings.

The ‘*Fit for 55*’ package has great potential for the construction industry, but will also have a far-reaching impact on the construction supply chain, as the proposed legislation affects the entire lifecycle of buildings.

A summary and analysis of the “*Fit for 55*” package and the European Green Deal is available on the FIEC website and intranet. FIEC has welcomed the “*Fit for 55*” package and the new EPBD, but has repeatedly warned about the high up-front costs of renovation, the lack of skilled labour and the impact of the EPBD on construction costs.

Actions and key dates:

15/12/2021 → European Commission proposal for a recast EPBD.

30/03/2022 → FIEC Position Paper on the recast EPBD.

14/02/2023 → [FIEC reaction](#) to position on EPBD proposal of European Parliament and [Press Release](#)

06/06/2023 → Start of trilogue negotiations on EPBD proposal.

30/08/2023 → FIEC co-signs cross-sector call for swift EPBD adoption (with 31 other European federations).

18/01/2024 → Participation in the “*Renovation Week*” of the Belgian EU Council Presidency.

12/04/2024 → Adoption of interinstitutional agreement by EU Council and [FIEC Press Release](#).

May 2024 → Publication of EPBD in Official Journal of EU.